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Fifty-eighth session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 14 May 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom)

- Report of the Secretary-General on Credentials
- Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (Security Council resolution 70 (1949)): Report of the Drafting Committee
- Attainment of Self-Government or independence by the Trust Territories (Trusteeship Council resolution 1369 (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV)) and the Situation in Trust Territories with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 45/34 (continued)
- Cooperation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)) (continued)
- Suspension of the fifty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS

The PRESIDENT: In connection with this item, I wish to draw members' attention to document T/1958, containing the report of the Secretary-General on credentials.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Council decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on credentials for the fifty-eighth session.

It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 70 (1949)): REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (T/L.1278)

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now consider the report of the Drafting Committee on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which has been circulated in document T/L.1278, dated 13 May.

To introduce the draft report, I call on the representative of France.

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): As you mentioned, Sir, the Drafting Committee's report is contained in document T/L.1278. The Committee, which was appointed on 8 May, met on 9 May and then held consultations with members of the Trusteeship Council. Following those consultations, the Committee was able to submit to the Trusteeship Council the draft conclusions and recommendations that are contained in the report. The draft, as usual, is divided into three sections: "Political advancement"; "Economic, social and educational advancement"; and "General".

In regard to political advancement, the Drafting Committee proposes that the Trusteeship Council take note of outstanding events that have taken place since last year. I am referring first to the Security Council's adoption of resolution 683 (1990), as proposed by all members of the Trusteeship Council,

(Mr. Menat, France)

a resolution that ended the Trusteeship Agreement for three Territories: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Moreover, in connection with Palau, the Drafting Committee proposes that the Trusteeship Council reflect developments this year, namely, on the one hand, a review of possible options with respect to the resolution of Palau's future political status, and on the other, measures taken by the Administering Authority with a view to improving its cooperation with the Government of Palau.

In the area of economic, social and educational advancement, the Drafting Committee proposes that the Trusteeship Council both take note of the concerns expressed at this session and that it welcome the positive measures adopted and the current consultations between the Administering Authority and the Government of Palau towards a master national development plan.

Finally, under general comments, as last year the Drafting Committee proposes that the Council take note of the assurances given by the Administering Authority that it will continue to fulfil its responsibilities. Moreover, following consultations, the Committee also proposes that the Council take note of the statement by the Administering Authority that the United States of America has no plans to establish military bases in Palau.

These, then, are the recommendations and conclusions of the Drafting Committee. Following consultations held by the Committee, I also keenly hope that, in the light of the consultations led by you, Sir, that the Trusteeship Council will be able to adopt these conclusions and recommendations by consensus.

The PRESIDENT: If no one wishes to speak, it is my understanding that the members of the Council are prepared to waive rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, which specifies that draft reports and draft resolutions should be circulated to the members 24 hours in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered. If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no comments, may I take it that the Council decides to adopt without a vote the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report of the Drafting Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The draft conclusions and recommendations we have just approved will constitute the second part of our report to the Security Council. The first part of the report will contain an overview of our deliberations, in accordance with previous practice.

This concludes our consideration of this item.

ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE BY THE TRUST TERRITORIES (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1369 (XVII) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1413 (XIV)) AND THE SITUATION IN TRUST TERRITORIES WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 1514 (XV) AND 45/34 (continued)

COOPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI)) (continued)

The PRESIDENT: As agreed by members of the Council at our 1687th meeting, on 9 May 1991, the Council will now resume consideration of these items, which we decided to consider jointly. Members will recall that, at that meeting, we decided to take a decision today on these agenda items.

(The President)

I should like to suggest that the Council decide to draw the attention of the Security Council to the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its fifty-eighth session concerning the attainment, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, and in particular Article 83, of self-government or independence by the Trust Territory, and also to the statements made by members of the Trusteeship Council on those questions.

If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

SUSPENSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with the procedure adopted at the Council's previous sessions, we shall now recess and meet in a resumed session to consider the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council. Members will be informed of the precise date as soon as possible.

As members are aware, the session has therefore not yet been completed and members will have a further opportunity to speak when the Council resumes in session to finalize its report to the Security Council. As has been our practice in previous years, I shall ask the Secretariat to prepare a draft of our report to the Security Council. When it is completed, I shall then distribute the report to members and I intend to hold informal consultations to seek their views on the report before the resumption of the Council in formal session.

(The President)

I think we have now come to the end of our labours, and I see lurking on the last page of my notes the dread words "Closing statement". I do not intend to say very much, but I would first like to thank all of you for helping the presidency to conduct what I think was an extremely efficient and expeditious series of meetings. I calculate that we have got through the business of the Trusteeship Council in seven meetings; these were seven quite full meetings, which were interesting and provided a great deal of valuable information. I want to thank everyone for that.

We have also, of course, registered a new first for the Trusteeship Council, in the sense that we have just adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Drafting Committee without taking a vote. Naturally, as your President, I greatly welcome this unanimity of view, because I think that it strengthens the Trusteeship Council and will make it easier for us to continue our examination of the question of Palau at our resumed session, and in future years, on an agreed basis. I am extremely pleased about that.

I think we have also had the privilege of listening to some extremely important statements on the future direction of Palau, both by the President of Palau himself - and I again take this opportunity to say how welcome his visit was - and also by the representatives of the Administering Authority, and by Mr. Victor Uherbelau in his concluding remarks. They have certainly given me a great deal of food for thought, and I think it is clear to all of us that there are some important discussions on the horizon, if I may put it that way, which will have important consequences for Palau's future status. We shall of course look forward very much to hearing next year precisely how these discussions and contacts have gone.

(The President)

I think it remains for me only to thank all of you for the courtesy and cooperation, and above all the patience, which you have all demonstrated throughout these meetings. On behalf of all of you - and on my own behalf - I should like to thank the representatives of the specialized agencies who have attended our session, all the members of the Secretariat sitting around and behind me, and to offer special thanks to Mr. De Souza for all the effective help that he has given me during this session.

I should also like to thank our interpreters, our press officers, the conference officers, the verbatim reporters, the précis-writers and the documents officers, all of whom very efficiently discharged their work and have helped us, as I said at the outset of my statement, to move through this session of the Council speedily, effectively and cooperatively.

If there are no further remarks, I declare the fifty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council suspended.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.